

1/28/83

118292

Silo:	Syntex Facility
ID #:	MOB007452154
Break:	13.5
Other:	0751
	1-28-83

FACT SHEET

for the Times Beach Site

History -- How did the contamination get there?

From 1968 to 1972, a series of companies used a chemical manufacturing facility in Verona, Missouri, to manufacture the herbicide 2,4,5-T and later hexachlorophene. An unwanted byproduct of these processes is small amounts of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, commonly known as TCDD or dioxin. In the early 1970's, the companies used various means to dispose of the dioxin-contaminated wastes. Some of the waste sludge was hauled away in 1971 by a salvage oil company, which then mixed the dioxin waste with spent oil and the mixture to control dust in various horse arenas and unpaved roads statewide, including the dirt roads in Times Beach in 1971-72. Later, these roads were paved, but dioxin attached to dust particles was still present along the road-side and could also escape through cracks in the pavement. During EPA's investigation of dioxin sites in 1982, a former employee of the salvage oil company who sprayed roads in the early 1970's told EPA that the Times Beach roads had been sprayed at least twice with waste oil and that might have contained dioxin.

Sampling -- What and where did EPA sample? What was found?

EPA sampled the roads and rights-of-way in Times Beach in November and early December 1982. Soon afterwards, the Meramac River flooded to the 1000-year flood level and devastated the town of Times Beach, situated on the Meramac flood plain. EPA expedited the sample analysis and dioxin was found at levels from less than 1 part per billion to 127 ppb. When the levels were announced, EPA and the federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommended that Times Beach residents not return to their houses until further testing could reveal that the flood had not washed contaminated soil into the houses. Phase 1 of the post-flood sampling program was completed on January 17, 1983. EPA took 305 samples from streets, yards, and houses, and the results showed that



118292

SUPERFUND RECORDS